

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

MURAKAMI, Akira

Atty. Ref.: 330-243; Confirmation No. 2265

Appl. No. 10/058,236

TC/A.U. 1731

Filed: January 29, 2002

Examiner: Lopez

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING SUBSTRATE BLANK, SUBSTRATE AND  
INFORMATION RECORDING MEDIUM

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November 29, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

This paper is responsive to the examiner's comments in the Advisory Action of November 16, 2004 in which it is indicated an Amendment filed September 24, 2004 will not be entered for various reasons outlined in that Advisory Action.

It appears to counsel that the amendments proposed in the September 24, 2004 Amendment do not serve to advance prosecution, at least based upon the examiner's comments, and thus in the concurrently filed Request for Continued Examination, counsel has not instructed entry of the September 24, 2004 Amendment. Applicants wish to address the comments contained in the Advisory Action and explain how their invention, as described and illustrated in the specification of this application, is distinguished from the prior art. Also applicants wish to dispel any possible misunderstanding (on the examiner's part) of the wording of the September 24, 2004 amendments that were previously proposed but have not been entered.

In the continuation sheet of the Advisory Action, the Examiner states as follows.

"Applicant now argues that a free surface is defined by two conditions:

1) When surrounding edge portion is not defined, the surrounding edge forms a free surface; and

2) The free surface is a surface to which nothing from the molding surface is transferred, so that no processing mark existing in the mold surface is transferred."

"Since the first condition was not included in the term 'free surface' it was thus never considered as controlling the definition of the term 'free surface'."

Applicants are concerned that the definition urged in the Advisory Action as set out above, is not based upon a fair and reasonable understanding of the disclosed (and illustrated) invention now being claimed. That is, although the Examiner states that Applicants now argue that a free surface is defined by two conditions, the present specification, section [0021] describes the contrary.

"When the surrounding edge portion of a [glass]<sup>1</sup> blank that is being produced is not brought into contact with a mold during its press-molding, that is, when the above surrounding edge portion is not defined, the surrounding edge portion [of the glass] forms a free surface. The free surface is a surface to which nothing from the molding surface is transferred, so that no processing mark existing in the mold surface is transferred."

The Examiner's comments notwithstanding, Applicants do not now argue that a free surface is defined by two conditions. As is clear from the above quoted portion of applicant's specification, the free surface as described under the (Examiner's) first condition is the same as the free surface as described under the (Examiner's) second condition.

The point here is that the surrounding edge portion of the glass that is not brought into contact with a mold (in other words, that is not defined) forms a free surface, and the free surface is a surface to which nothing from the molding surface is transferred, so that no processing mark existing in the mold surface is transferred to the glass.

The reason why the Examiner insists on the above two conditions appears to be based on the assumption that a mold should have an upper mold member, a lower mold member and

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<sup>1</sup> Added to place this passage in context with the overall description including Figure 2(a) and (b).

a sleeve. As applicants understand the Examiner's comments, it is the Examiner's view that even if the surrounding edge portion of the glass does not come into contact with any one of the upper and lower mold members, then the surrounding edge portion of the glass may come into contact with the sleeve.

On the basis of the above understanding, the Examiner cites US 6,442,975 in the Office Action dated November 14, 2003, and states in that Office Action, page 2, lines 10-7 from the bottom, that "As shown in figure 10 the circumferential edge of glass blank 44 does not touch the mold dies 17 and 14 as it is being pressed formed." As is clear from figure 10, the Examiner seems to insist that this cited portion implicitly states that the circumferential edge of glass blank 44 touches a sleeve. If this is not the case, there appears to be no reason why US 6,442,975 is even cited.

In their specification applicants have already discussed the case where such a sleeve exists – see section [0029]. As is clearly shown in Fig. 2(b) attached to the present specification, "the molded article 1 has a surrounding edge portion 13 that does not come into contact with the sleeve 5 (that is not defined by the sleeve 5), so that the surrounding edge portion 13 remains in the molded article 1 to form a free surface" (see the specification, page 14, lines 6 to 10). That is, even if a sleeve exists, the surrounding edge portion does not touch the sleeve.

In the previous non-entered amendment to the claims applicant proposed to incorporate the requirement of "having a sleeve." This amendment was offered following the Examiner's suggestion in order to overcome the Examiner's prior art-based rejection; but this Amendment seems to have caused more confusion and delay than benefit in advancing the examination of applicant's claims. Under these circumstances, the previous wording of the claims remains.

The entire text of the present specification does not call for any specific structure of a press mold, that is, one including or excluding a sleeve – but the present invention has, as one of its essential requirements, as applicants have consistently claimed, the requirement that "the glass ... is press-molded without causing any surrounding edge portion ... (to) come into contact with the mold...", The term "mold" is an encompassing one and includes all of mold members or parts that are used for the press molding, but which the surrounding edge portion of a glass blank during production does not come into contact.

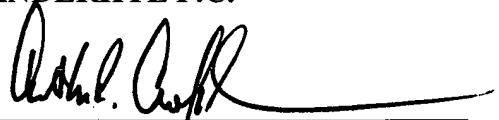
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Reconsideration of this application and favorable action are solicited. Should the examiner require further information please contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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